

Beloved Members and Friends of Cherry Creek Presbyterian,

This is my third email to you on the COVID-19 virus. Thank you for being patient with us as we watch and evaluate this rapidly evolving situation. I am determined that Cherry Creek will not behave out of trepidation or pressure. I think that Satan uses fear most often, but we do not need to be moved by media hysteria and crowd-induced panic. We serve a God that is in control.

This week we've been corresponding with other churches who are closing or greatly reducing services. A few hours ago, Governor Polis asked churches in Colorado not to meet in groups over 250. Like others, our first reaction to all of this has been to say, "Heaven's no, we're not canceling anything! This is Jesus' church. The gates of hell shall not prevail against us. We are not afraid, for the Lord is with us!" Thankfully, after discussions with friends, doctors, and elders—along with the Lord's voice in prayer—God balances us out with extra forbearance and patience. Please pray for us as leaders. God is with us, but we need to be sensitive to those around us.

Having spent several hours listening to medical professionals and to other leaders, we now believe we should go to a more modified schedule for this weekend. It is not about fear. It's about serving our community, especially our health care services, and being honoring of our government when we can. By limiting large groups in social contact, hopefully, this will "flatten out the curve" of a disease that will, inevitably, spread. Less people will get sick, and less will need medical care. Sometimes loving people means you must surrender something you treasure for the good of others. It is the way of Jesus. I know there is no perfect plan, but we are seeking the Lord as best we know. So, here's the plan now:

- People over 65, or those who have underlying health problems, remain the primary at-risk group. Please consider staying home and watching on-line or reading your Bible for the next few weeks. We want to protect you. If you get sick, we will come. If you need something, please call.
- **Cherry Creek will hold one service this weekend, on Saturday night at 4:30pm in the Sanctuary.** We will spread out to minimize contact—and if more than 250 people come, we will move some people into Fuel to watch the video. It will be a modified piano-led Word and Table service.
- I will be preaching on "Living in a World with Adversity and Affliction."
- We will live-stream and record this service, including the piano music and the message, and will post it online at [www.cherrycreekpres.org](http://www.cherrycreekpres.org) if you would like to watch it Saturday night or Sunday as a time of personal worship.
- **There will be no worship services on Sunday; however, the church will be open.** We will be meeting for a simple prayer time (led by me) for those who desire to attend at 8:45 am in the Sanctuary. We will pray for the sick, our country, our neighbors, our families, and our faith.
- All Kids Ministry, Youth Ministry and Adult Formation classes will be suspended Sunday, too.
- However, home groups and small groups at church may continue, and people will be urged to prayerfully follow the prescribed cautions, exercising prayer and personal discretion.

We will have more information on services for the next weekends, March 22 and 29, as we see what happens in our area. Stay tuned. After the Session meets this weekend, we will know more plans. As well, we are planning to set up a phone tree in which elders, deacons, and staff can telephone our membership to check on how everyone is doing. We are in this together. Please pray especially for our

medical providers, our elderly, and the peace of our city. As ever, your pastors, elders and staff are available to serve you and uphold the faith we share. We love you all.

Unafraid Because of Jesus, Pastor Brad